

MATWATCH

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HOW FAR IS TOO FAR?

AUG. 28 - Hulk Hogan atomic drops a woman at SUMMER SLAM.

SEPT. 9 - Devastation, Inc., attacks Chris Adams' wife, Toni, and rips open her blouse on TV.

SEPT. 12 - Terry Funk plops a plastic bag over the head of Ric Flair on CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS.

SEPT. 23 - Scott Steiner is mugged on a parking lot on WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING.

A top figure I respect in the wrestling profession recently told me: "I agree. The plastic bag was too much. But where do you draw that line? How far is TOO far?"

Honestly, I can't answer the question. It's like a boss who says, "I don't know what I want but I'll know it when I see it."

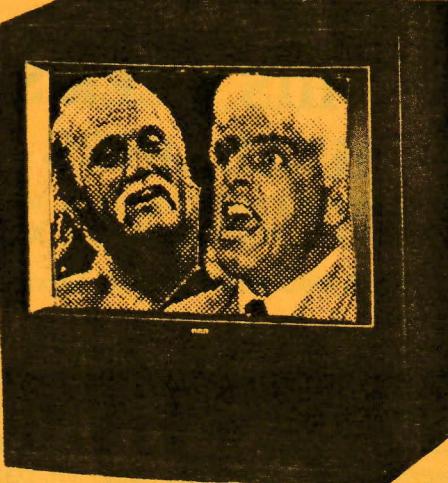
I know I've seen enough males abusing women on TV wrestling. True, it's been going on since Bobby Shane shoved his valet, Cherie, in the early '70s. But revenge-motivated or not, "Eat your vitamins, say your prayers" Superman Hogan demonstrated the ultimate in irresponsibility with his actions on Sherri Martel at SUMMER SLAM. The Adams attack was equally low and smacked of a desperate promotion.

But my patience hit the limit when I was told of a recent proposed angle for Continental that, hopefully, will not see the light of air.

Purportedly, Adrian Street's wife Linda was to "become pregnant." At the six-month mark, Linda was to be attacked by either the Stud Stable or another heel team and "lose the baby." So help me, it was discussed; Adrian, to his credit, would have no part of it. How far is TOO far? Yet, we were treated to three replays of Beauty and the Beast power-slammimg Linda and beating her with garden tools. This is good television? This is how we sell tickets???

I've also had it with gratuitous documentary-style violence on TV wrestling. And the NWA has been the worst offender of late. I've already had my say on the plastic bag but the willful beating of Scott Steiner on a parking lot is the ultimate in ambiguity for a promotion professing to want to attract more younger viewers, particularly children. Agreed, most folks are common-sensical enough to view wrestling angles for what they are. But, folks, on that Sept. 23 show, we were shown a crime. The same kind recreated each week on AMERICA'S MOST WANTED or COPS. And it's not going to be enough when the angle is predictably played out and Scott discovers whodunit and says, "I'm not pressing charges. Don't suspend them. Let me take care of them myself." Remember the Horsemen attack on Dusty Rhodes in 1986? It took Jim Crockett six months to even acknowledge on air that anything untoward had occurred.

No, somebody ought to pay for that crime in more than just ring revenge. The message to kids is: take the law



into your own hands. If you don't think some viewers are angry, read some of the mail from a few parents in this MATWATCH.

Fortunately, a voice from the NWA is addressing the situation. I put the question directly to Jim Herd, the NWA's senior vice president, how far is too far? Responded Herd: "It (the Steiner angle) sure was too far and so was the bag. And you can quote me that we're going to bring these things under control at TBS. This is going to be a family show."

I'm going to hold Mr. Herd to his word. When Ted Turner first bought the promotion nearly a year ago, TBS executives told me they were negative on Bill Watts affiliating with the promotion because his UWF wrestling had been "too violent." I ask you to review the last two weeks of NWA angles and tell me what violence is. At least Watts' violence was predominantly IN the ring.

Wrestling's past success has always been, in part, due to its excesses. But I, for one, have seen enough beatings of women, branding irons, 2x4s, baseball bats, plastic bags and muggings. It's as if every promotion, in an effort to top itself, is trying to see how far it can push the limits of taste. And it would not surprise me in the least if even the most loyal followers begin to tell owners in more forceful voices, "Enough is enough!" How far is TOO far? Depends on your own measure of tolerance....but mine has just about been reached.



Steve Beverly

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

WWF EXPERIENCING CASH FLOW PROBLEM;
OTHERS MAY FOLLOW TULLY & ARN OUT

From Matwatch Staff Reports

MATWATCH has learned the World Wrestling Federation encountered protests from as many as a dozen of its competitors the week of Sept. 25. Sources say the complaints stem from recent low payoffs, due in part to a cash flow problem in the WWF.

Several insiders told MATWATCH financial losses totaling an estimated \$8-9 million from last fall's Sugar Ray Leonard-Donny La-londe pay-per-view boxing bomb, which Titan Sports distributed, are just now showing up on Titan books. In addition, reports have the NO HOLDS BARRED movie posting a loss of up to \$17 million, after distribution costs and rights are figured.

"There's no question Vince has become very budget-conscious," says one source who asked not to be named. According to reports, the only WWF performer with a guaranteed money contract is Hulk Hogan.

The situation led to Jacques and Raymond Rougeau following the path of Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson (who are returning to the NWA) in departing the WWF. No indication has been made as to the Rougeaus' destination. Still more may be leaving, if reports are accurate, but MATWATCH has been told WWF officials will not become alarmed unless Turner Broadcasting attempts to sign a wrestler at the level of a Randy Savage.

One source quoted Blanchard as saying, "All the big money everyone talks about making up here hasn't been true for us." The cash situation is cited as one reason why Titan will run this Thanksgiving's third SURVIVOR SERIES with 40 wrestlers instead of the traditional 50.

TULLY & ARN NWA DEAL NOT YET CLEARED BY HERD

ATLANTA---A contract for Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson, expected to return to the NWA for the Dec. 13 STARRCADE '89, had not been finalized as of Sept. 26.

NWA senior vice president Jim Herd, who signs off on all NWA contracts, told MATWATCH "I'll be happy to talk to them when the time is appropriate," but would not elaborate further.

Blanchard and Anderson are expected to

lose their WWF world tag team titles at an early fall Titan taping.

BRUNO SAMMARTINO TO REFEREE HALLOWEEN HAVOC MAIN EVENT

ATLANTA --- Former WWWF heavyweight champion Bruno Sammartino has agreed to referee the main event for the NWA's HALLOWEEN HAVOC in Philadelphia Oct. 28.

Negotiations had been going on with Sammartino for several weeks. The Philadelphia Civic Center began plugging Bruno's appearance last week.

The "Thunderdome cage match" topliner features Ric Flair & Sting vs. Terry Funk & Great Muta. Each team will have a "second" and the only way a team can lose is for the "second" to throw in a towel.

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR SIGNS COMMISSION BILL

SACRAMENTO --- California Gov. George Deukmejian has signed into law a bill removing wrestling from the jurisdiction of a state athletic commission.

The bill, which passed the State Assembly after two years of debate, was sponsored by Rep. Richard Floyd, who debated the measure with former-wrestling star Lou Albano on a spring edition of ABC's NIGHTLINE.

Not clearly spelled out is whether wrestling managers will still have to buy a license to participate in California wrestling shows.

RATINGS RAP: SYNDICATION

Week Ending Sept. 17	Rating	Stations	U.S. Coverage
WWF	8.5	249	97%
NWA	7.8	161	91%

(ANALYSIS: The NWA numbers were boosted 2.3 national points by the ratings of CLASH on Sept. 12; otherwise, its syndicated package hovered at a 5.5 level. WWF is down about 2 points from those record audiences in the buildup for SUMMER SLAM.)

MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

MATWATCHER Bill Hanrahan of Columbia MD has won the NWA Fall Brawl T-shirt. But we'll have another offer during the holiday season.

U.S. RATES: \$6 for 7 issues, \$19 for 26, \$36 for 1 year.

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SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWER- * * * SLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor.

(SCW) - SOUTHERN TITLE: David Sammartino d. Joel Deaton for belt; Chic Donovan d. Kevin Dillinger; Dustin Rhodes/Dutch Mantel d. Chance Myers/Invader; Mr. Atlanta/Mike Golden d. Ga. Power when Ted Allen walks out on Jim Powell & turns heel. RESTHOLD +.

(CWA) - Rock & Roll Express double DQ vs. Wildside; Black Bart d. Chris Frazier; Texas Dirt wins DQ over Buddy Landell; Tony Anthony/RPM Davis draw vs. Bill Dundee/Dustin Rhodes. DRAW.

(USWA) - Al Perez/Ron Starr/Cpl. Braddock d. Matt Borne/Billy Travis/Jeff Jarrett; Chris Adams wins DQ over P.Y. Chu'i when Taurus Bulba interferes but Toni Adams gets slap in on Tojo Yamamoto; Kerry Von Erich double countout vs. Taurus Bulba but Akbar ties Kerry's hand to post and Bulba brakes Kerry's hand w. headbutts. DRAW-PLUS.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WWW]: Dick Slater/Muta; Lex Luger d. Lee Scot; Dynamic Dudes d. New Zealand Militia; Freebirds d. New Fantastics; Tommy Rich d. Randy Rose; CLASH replays; PEDICINO'S NOSE: Joe reviews Flair-Funk saga. GORDON SOLIE COMMENTARY: Gordon calls on Funk to pay \$100,000 fine. DRAW.

[NWA PRO]: Skyscrapers d. Len Wagner/Rusty Riddle; Dick Murdoch d. Trent Knight; Tommy Rich d. Agent Steel; Dudes draw vs. Freebirds; Dick Slater d. Ricky Nelson but Ric Flair saves in post-match. RECAP: Plastic bag angle. FEATURE: Robin Green declares, "I am WOMAN!" RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: From WWW, Dudes d. Militia; Flair d. Bill Irwin; Muta d. Murdoch when Slater knocks Dick w. cast; FUNK'S GRILL: Gary Hart suggests giving Flair 1-way ticket to Double Cross Ranch to settle feud with Terry. WNN: Gordon calls on Funk/Hart to pay fine. DRAW.

[WCW]: Flair d. Gene Ligon; Animal d. Ray Parker; Brian Pillman d. Cruel Connection; Dudes d. Angel/Ric Ryder; Steiners d. Joe Cook/Bob Cruz; Murdoch wins DQ over Danny Spivey when Sid Vicious attacks outside. UPDATE: Robin Green/Scott Steiner situation. BOMB-PLUS.

[MAIN EVENT]: Dudes draw vs. Freebirds; REPLAY: Murdoch-Spivey; Flair d. Slater by countout. DRAW.

(WWF/USA) - [PTW]: Greg Valentine d. Jim

McPherson; Dusty Rhodes d. Dusty Wolfe; Haku d. Tony Diamond; Rick Rude d. Paul Roma; Sheepwackers d. Brooklyn Brawler/Don Champ; Rougeaus d. Tony Durante/Gary Wolfe; ANGLE: Rude Awakening fails to make woman swoon. BRO. LUV w. Andre; Hercules d. Akeem by DQ. RESTHOLD.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Demolition d. Dan Reilly/Champ; Jimmy Snuka d. Bob Bradley; Haku d. Diamond; Roddy Piper d. Barry Horowitz; Barry Widowmaker d. Mayo; Rick Martel d. Durante; Wackers d. Chris Duffy/Mike Williams. BOMB-PLUS.

[SUPERSTARS]: CORONATION: Randy Savage & Sherri Martel as new WWF king & queen; Snuka d. Boris Zhukov; Rhodes d. Wolfe; Bad News Brown d. Elmer Johnson; Rougeaus d. Durante/G. Wolfe; Bro. LUV w. DiBiase; Brutus Beefcake d. Horowitz; Rude d. Terry Daniels. BOMB-PLUS.

(AWF) - Mr. Frankie wins DQ over Alabama Don; American Eagle d. Mike Adonis; Ron Davis no contest vs. Tim Sledge; Paul Lee d. Greg Sawyer. DOUBLE BOMB.

(AWA) - Destruction Crew d. Man Mt. Mike/Butler Stevens; Kokina d. Jerry Lynn; Russian Brute d. Red Tyler; AWA WORLD TITLE: Larry Zbyszko wins DQ over Sgt. Slaughter when Slaughter is caught using Larry Z's roll of dimes. RESTHOLD.

(FLORIDA) - Big Bear Stevens d. Tim Parker; Jumbo Baretta d. Stingray; Kendall Windham d. Rock Hard Rick; Tyree Pride d. Jim Backlund by DQ; Ron Slinker d. Dennis Knight; Steve Keirn d. Coconut Kid. LADIES PT. OF VIEW: Diane Hampton interviews Nasty Boys. BOMB-PLUS.

(CWF) - Brian Lee/Jimmy Golden d. Jason Walker/Dean Ho; Dennis Condrey d. Johnny Gilbert; Kerry Von Erich d. Lou Fabiano; Southern Boys win DQ over Zulu/Avenger when Stud Stable runs in. Jerry Stubbs also attacked & S. Boys do heavy juice job before Dixie Dyn-O-Mite (Scott Armstrong) makes save; Adrian Street/Todd Morton d. Beauty & the Beast but Beast knocks out Street/Morton w. bone and then reinjures Linda Street's arm by posting her arm & beating her. ANGLE: S. Boys lure Studs into CWF title match with Stubbs as ref. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(PORTLAND) - BATTLE ROYAL: Carl Stiles wins but is jumped by Nord the Barbarian and Brian Adams before Bill Francis saves w. football helmet; Beetlejuice wins DQ over Al Madril; Rex King d. Scotty the Body & walks off with Pacific NW title belt. ANGLE: Grappler & Rip Oliver brawl during interview segment & after battle royal. DRAW-PLUS.

LINES OF THE WEEK - 1. Woman (Robin Green), NWA: "Not since Cleopatra ruled her Nile kingdom has there been such a woman to conquer the world." 2. Roddy Piper, PTW, on Dusty Rhodes: "Anybody who sticks his hand in the toilet & delivers pizza....I hope he ain't gonna sing." 3. Piper, PTW, on Andre: "Personally, I think he looks better with mascara." 4. Jim Cornette, PH: "My grandpa was 70 years old when he started to walk 3 miles a day. He's 78 now...we don't know where he is." 5. Terry Funk, PH, to Gary Hart: "You're as crazy as Jim Herd." 6. Jesse Ventura, WWF, on King Savage & Sherri: "They remind me of 2 of my best friends, Harry & Leona Helmsley." 7. Ventura, WWF, on Beefcake's tights: "Must be the Gumby look." 8. Jerry Lawler, USWA: "Ever heard of a Teacher's Pet? Oh, I'm sorry, you people in Texas don't go to school." 9. Dennis Condrey, CWF: "I was kicked out of the AWA. I was kicked out of the NWA, 'cause they said, 'Dennis Condrey, you're too viiiii-lent.' 10. Lex Luger, WCW, on search for new foes: "I guess I'll just have to take out a classified in USA TODAY."

11. Funk, PH: "When your daddy tells you to eat every bean & pea on your plate, you just say NO!" 12. Jim Ross, PH: "Paul E. appears to be on the phone with Fatu of the Samoan Swat Team. He probably called them collect." 13. Tyree Pride, FCW: "Blackjack & Kendall--if you're 2 tall trees, I'm a small axe." 14. Bob Caudle, NWA, on Robin Green: "She's shown us the ends justify the means." 15. Robin G., NWA: "90 minutes of the Beav & Wally & super supremes...surely you jest?" 16. Teddy Long, NWA: "We're gonna take out Hawk 'cause all he does is squawk. We're gonna get Animal 'cause he's just a big cannibal." 17. Ventura, WWF, on Dusty's outfit: "Looks like an old shower curtain I used to have." 18. Piper, PTW: "I've got enough confidence. I let my grandma wash my jockey shorts." 19. Cornette, PH: "You (Ross) & Gordon Solie together is like Dan Rather getting the opportunity to work with Walter Cronkite." 20. Ventura, WWF, to McMahon: "You won the Ivy League crouquet title. You break a sweat?"

21. Blackjack Mulligan & Dallas Page, FCW: (BM) "Have you ever felt a 2500-pound animal?" (DP) "I told you--I'm not into your heavy-set women." 22. Joe Pedicino, NWA: "The last thing we want is any trouble between the Dynamic Dudes & the Midnight Express over who gets Jim Cornette."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Green, NWA: "Behind every good man is a woman but I don't stand behind any man." 2. Larry Zbyszko, AWA, on Sgt. Slaughter: "You're a disgrace to wrestling! You're a disgrace to the whole country!" 3. Piper, PTW: "Dusty, every time you sing, you're killing us!"

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Piper, PTW, on Rude: "Are we talking halitosis here? Are we talking the breath of a monkey's behind?" 2. Gordon Solie, PH, to Gary Hart: "Why not pay the \$100,000 fine and face it like a man... if you can?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. THE MASSENGIL MAN OF THE YEAR (Piper on Rude). 2. AMERICAN IMBECILE (Heenan on Dusty). 3. MAINE MORONS (Rude on Portland, ME fans). 4. SONNY QUEEN (Dallas Page on Sonny King). 5. ELMER FUDD LOOKALIKE (Page on Dennis Knight).

BEST PICTURES - 1. USWA, Kerry Von Erich & Taurus Bulba double claw. 2. TBS, Paul E. drinking from Militia canteen. 3. USWA, Chu'i atomic dropping Adams on rope. 4. FCW, Jumbo Baretta somersault.

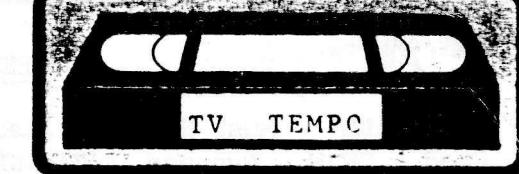
BEST AUDIO - TBS, Paul E. telling Fatu: "Hang up the phone. I'm at ringside," during Dudes-Militia.

BLOOPER AWARD - CWF, for listing THE AVENGER as "THE ADVANGER."

DREADED GLITCH AWARDS - 1. TBS, Ross pitching to COLLEGE SCOREBOARD which had aired in previous break. 2. TBS, for upcutting Flair interview after Solie report on news conference. 3. CWF, losing video on Charlie Platt for 10 seconds.

BOO AWARD - CWF, for yet another new angle of Linda Street being beaten by two men. Maybe it should be called WAF: Women's Abuse Federation.

TUBE TALK: Florida show now called PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FROM FLORIDA....Diamond Dallas Page takes over as main host of PWF show next Saturday....A West



Palm Beach jury set damages for wrestler Steve "Big Daddy" Dibliaso at \$317,000 in his suit against Dusty Rhodes over a 1983 career-ending injury. But the judge in the case relieved Rhodes of financial burden, citing Dibliaso knew the professional risks of his job.

The brawl finale on CWF was good but it's getting more and more like the old Fuller-Armstrong gang of mine that nearly killed this group in 1987....But not even amusing was the latest effort to beat up Linda Street. If this is Fuller's idea of fun and games on wrestling TV, the promotion must truly be desperate.... Johnny Rich plugged as new CWF general manager.

With the exception of good Dudes-Freebirds and Flair-Slater matches, NWA TV was lackluster again. The zip truly is gone....The best thing I'll say for the WWF "coronation" is that it was only half as long as that marathon for Haku. But didn't Tully & Arn look as though they'd have rather been anywhere BUT there?If we had an awkward award, it would go to NWA PRO for "suspending" and "unsuspending" Funk in a total of 3 minutes. Have a good week, FSB.

ONE YEAR AGO IN MATWATCH

--Eddie Gilbert departs as CWF booker. Paul E. Dangerously, Missy Hyatt, Shane Douglas & Doug Gilbert follow suit.

--Brad Armstrong leaves the NWA. Ricky Steamboat rumored returning to the senior circuit.

--WWF topped the NWA in syndication, 8.2 to 6.1

--Jerry Lawler told World Class fans, "I found out the Yellow Rose of Texas was made of ceramics." Jim Cornette proclaimed, "Bush & Quayle--sounds like a companion magazine to Field & Stream. Dukakis & Bentsen-- sounds like a new brand of power saw."

RATINGS RAP: CABLE

Week Ending Sept. 25	Rating	Share	Homes
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 9/25)	2.4	3.6	1.15 mil.
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 9/24)	2.1	4.1	1.04 mil.
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 9/23)	2.0	4.5	990,000
NWA'S GREATEST HITS (TBS 9/23)	2.0	5.7	988,000
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 9/22)	1.6	2.8	792,000
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 9/24)*	0.9	2.2	446,000
NWA POWER HOUR (R) (TBS 9/23)	0.7	6.2	347,000

*Pre-empted until 12:45 p.m. (EST). Only aired 15 min.

(ANALYSIS: Bottoming last week, these are the lowest collective ratings for cable wrestling shows as a whole since cable first began measuring USA and TBS programs. The 2.4 is the lowest for PRIME TIME in a non-holiday show in nine months. WCW rallied to a 2.3 and 5.2 share in its final quarter hour but suffered from a 3.8 share in its 6-6:15 slot. As a whole, the ratings indicate NFL and college football are drawing away males and the unmeasured VCR viewers may be increasing. Or could it be that people are growing tired of the increasing bizarre angles?)

YOU SAID IT!

Am I the only one who finds Gordon Solie deathly boring? If he says, "On a personal note, if I may..." once more!!! I don't understand using Wahoo as color on the TBS show. While competent (although kind of bland), his presence and impending return to the ring I don't think will sell too many tickets.

Don't you think Ross & Co. should really push the "being there live" aspect more? It just does seem sometimes, why see it live when you can watch it on the tube? Also, I think they should run through the card on screen match by match.

JEFF ZINGER
WOODSTOCK ONT

I really miss the WWF women's wrestling---especially because I was looking forward to Elizabeth becoming a wrestler but now there's not much chance of that unless it's a one-time main event situation. I still have great respect for Rockin' Robin, though, so I would like anyone who would like to see women's wrestling return to the WWF to write to me. I am also mailing petitions to wrestling fans. On Nov. 1, I will forward all letters and signatures to Rockin' Robin and a copy to Vince McMahon.

LINDA COSSEY
1356 DEWEY AVE.
ROCHESTER NY 14613

Sorry to hear of the passing of Eduardo Perez. He used to have a private after hours club near where (Boris) Malenko had his gym. Always enjoy your "I Remember" columns.

GEORGE HILL
JAMESTOWN KY

Regarding CLASH VIII, I think Jim Cornette's closing line says it all: "They've gone too far!" No matter what people may think of the poor taste shown in Dusty Rhodes' WWF videos, nothing has turned me off more than the plastic bag finish between Flair and Funk. I'm just glad my son wasn't up to see it. If this is an example of the "new NWA," thanks but no thanks.

BRIAN SCOTT
HAMILTON ONT

I wanted to comment on the "plastic bag" attack of Terry Funk on Ric Flair but you took the words right out of my mouth in the Sept. 18 MATWATCH. At least we have one advocate willing to take a stand for keeping wrestling as much family entertainment as it can be. I had to have a long talk with my seven-year-old about what happened after the CLASH.

CLARENCE CARTER
TRENTON NJ

Dusty's spike-in-the-eye with the Road Warriors last December was bad enough. But I'd hate to think a kid---and you know how they love to imitate wrestlers on the schoolyard---would find great fun in putting a bag over someone's head. Whomever came up with that idea obviously needs counseling.

BOB JIMMERSON
MANTEO NC

I am amazed at the criticism of the WWF's poor taste. I'll be the first to admit that racism and prejudice are prevalent in the WWF. I was very offended when Dusty Rhodes went searching for his career in the plumber's suit. However, the NWA is also guilty of straining to hit below the belt. After the Steiner-Robin Green night date, Jim Ross stated that he had to change his pants after seeing Robin. Just because the Rhodes (expletive) was not funny and the Steiner-Robin (expletive) was hilarious should not confuse the fact that both aim at the same mentality. I'm 22 years old and I'll be the first to admit that seeing Missy Hyatt half-naked is one of the highlights of my week. But I don't need Jim Ross saying "what a pair and the Steiners ain't too bad either!" I'm sure the female fans do not

appreciate viewing Robin Green's 42nd Street outfit every week. The NWA is just as guilty as the WWF in the poor taste department.

JOHN A. D'AMATO
BELLMORE NY

I'm not usually in the habit of writing letters of opinion or in this case distaste for publication. But after seeing SUMMER SLAM '89 and the now infamous Gene Okerlund "blooper," I felt obligated to at least voice some sort of opinion. I'm not sure I buy the explanation of Titan Sports that they felt that the comment was "humorous" and that's why it made it on the air. If that's truly the case, I'm even more offended as both a broadcaster and wrestling fan. As long as I can remember, I've been haunted by the unfortunate mistake of uttering one of the "seven deadly words." And the fact that they would openly endorse such a mistake as funny can only deteriorate their reputation not only with viewers but with the broadcast industry itself. No one can deny Titan Sports focuses on the younger market of fans and many of the interviews by both Hogan's side and Savage's side made offhanded remarks and straightforward comments about swallowing "potions" and "concoctions" enabling them to "see" more clearly and "better" understand situations. As long as this continues and they continue to waste angles that could carry over like letting Hogan have his way with Zeus right away, I think this is the beginning of the decay of Titan Sports. All I can say is if Flair and the NWA continue on their present course of building storylines, they will have an excellent chance of getting in a position to challenge seriously.

TONY RICHARDS
WDDJ 97 FM
PADUCAH KY

It's about time wrestling had a female booker. Then we'd see how funny and entertaining it is to have men beating up women all the time. In the last month, I've seen Hulk Hogan knock around Sensational Sherri, Toni Adams be mugged in World Class and Miss Linda (Adrian Street's wife) be beaten with garden clippers by two men. I wonder how many of these male bookers treat their own wives or girlfriends the same way.

ANGELA GRIFFIN
BIRMINGHAM AL

Your comments on the plastic bag bit were on the money. But I'll take it a step further. It's one thing to run it live but did we have to be subjected to the constant replays on all of the NWA shows? TBS even used it as a part of a commercial for the POWER HOUR last week.

CURT CARLSON
TAMPA FL

(FSB: TBS program executive Jeff Carr ordered that POWER HOUR promo pulled from the air after seeing it hit the air Sept. 21 and says no further replays will air on TBS shows.)

I'm hesitant to even write this sarcastically, but why didn't they just bring a gun out to ringside and pull it on Flair at the CLASH? Seems like the intent would be the same and have a lot more shock value. Of course, try explaining it to a 10-year-old.

TOM SKERRITT
MONTPELIER VT

(FSB: After these letters, any wonder the ratings are down sharply on all the cable wrestling shows???)

LETTERS POLICY

All letters to MATWATCH must be signed for publication. Personal attacks on other letter writers will not be tolerated. Letters will be subject to editing for taste, profanity and length. Form letters and copies of letters mailed to other publications will not be published. All correspondence to: MATWATCH, 213 PINE HILLS AVE., AUBURN AL 36830.

CANADIAN UPDATE: I've received new information on the NWA/CTV situation. Negotiations are now going on with individual CTV affiliates, so as for now, CFTO is the only channel carrying NWA. But Halifax has just cleared and other markets are expected to soon follow suit.

CLASH TITLE: Sorry, folks, but an in-house suggestion was selected for the title of CLASH IX (Nov. 15, Troy NY). It will be NEW YORK KNOCKOUTS. But Jeff Carr thanks you for your entries.

NEXT YEAR: The first CLASH of 1990 will be Feb. 6 (a Tuesday) at a yet to be picked site. That will precede by 19 days the Feb. 25 WRESTLE WAR '90 pay-per-view show.

CLEANING UP: One reason that POWER HOUR promo was pulled for the Sept. 22 show is that the plastic bag angle was prominently displayed in a spot airing during TOM & JERRY, a highly-watched kids hour on TBS.

NOT MACHO ENOUGH?: Cincinnati Reds' broadcaster Marty Brenneman nearly felt the ax after interviewing Randy Savage during the third inning of the Sept. 21 Reds-Padres game. Reds' owner Marge Schott said: "If you ever want to go on the air for the Reds again, get him (Savage) off the air." Brenneman said it was the most excitement at Riverfront Stadium in 2½ months.

I LOVE A PARADE: CWF's Parade of Champions has included Jerry Lawler-Wendell Cooley "world" title matches and Dennis Condrey-Kerry Von Erich CWF title bouts.

ANOTHER SWITCH: Eddie Gilbert is out and Ole Anderson is in for the NWA booking committee, according to reports.

NETWORKING: NWA has lost its slot in Milwaukee and CWF is apparently off in Chattanooga after being battered all over the WDEF schedule. ICW has picked up a slot on the sports-oriented indie in Melbourne FL.

FCW CHANGES: The FLORIDA switch to every-other-Tuesday TV tapings (2 shows) is strictly a cost-saving measure. But some diehards doubt if moving the weekly Tampa shows to Saturday will save the dying group.

HELLO, PROVIDENCE!: If you get this on Tuesday, I'll be on with Cody Boyns on WALE's WRESTLE RAP Tonight from 7 to 8 (ET). If you get it later, thanks for the invitation, Cody.

TITAN-BOUND?: Lots of calls from the Northeast speculating that Eddie Gilbert will head for the WWF after his NWA pact expires in February. I have no confirmation of that. If Eddie doesn't stay, though, I'd recommend him to be a guy to bring new life to the USWA.

ROLLING: Former FNN wrestling expert Broadway Danny Wolf handled trackside analysis for the first taping of the WORLD ROLLER FEDERATION Sept. 24 in Irvine CA but I don't expect big things from this group. Lots of infighting going on ---plus, national ratings for ROLLERGAMES' second week dipped from its premiere showings.

TRIO OF TERROR: A caller to Bruno Sammartino's 900 number has confirmed an Iowa newspaper as reporting that Curt Hennig, Koko B. Ware and Ray Taylor (Big Bossman) are accused of a physical attack on a minor female. Our details are still sketchy but Bruno told Cody Boyns on WRESTLE RAP that a hearing has already been scheduled or will be held in the near future.

PAPER BLOOPER: I swear I had nothing to do with it (a la Norman): the Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader published a display ad for a Sept. 22 WWF show at Rupp Arena. It states: "WWF Title Match: WEF Champion Hulk Hogan" And you thought I was the only one!

PLEASE, MOOLAH: David McLane is moving his Ladies Sports Club (third incarnation of GLOW & POWW) to Los Angeles and was seen at the opening of SLAMMERS trying to talk the Fabulous Moolah, an avowed GLOW/POWW-hater, into working with his performers. Don't do it, Lillian!

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